



Attorney Docket No. 5051-425

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Dominique Robertson
Serial No.: 09/281,528
Filed: March 30, 1999
For: *METHOD OF SUPPRESSING GENE EXPRESSION IN PLANTS*

Examiner: C. Drabik
Group Art Unit: 1633

Date: July 16, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated January 16, 2001, please reconsider this application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Specification.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 3-7, with the following replacement paragraph:

a! As used herein, an "endogenous" plant gene refers to a gene integrated into the chromosomal DNA of the plant genome. Endogenous genes include those that occur naturally in the plant genome, as well as those artificially introduced (such as by *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation or ballistic bombardment).

In the Claims.

Please cancel Claims 22-30 as drawn to a non-elected invention without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application.

Please cancel Claims 7, 10, 17, 20, 33 and 34 for the purposes of rewriting in independent form.

1. (Amended) A geminivirus silencing vector comprising a geminivirus genome which contains heterologous DNA, said heterologous DNA having at least 60% sequence similarity to a gene endogenous to a plant

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02 FC:102
03 FC:103

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